Claims

1. A method for restricting a message service in a
communication network, wherein
5   at least a sender (12, 13, 14) and a recipient (12,
13, 14) of a message communication in said network are
identifiable by a respective address (A12, A13, A14);
said method comprising the steps of
       keeping a record (28) containing information about
10   certain addresses with which a message communication is
not allowed;
       deciding (S30A) whether a message communication with
a certain address is allowed or not, and writing (S26)
information of unallowed addresses in said record (28),
15   thus determining contents of said record (28);
       receiving a request for establishing a message
communication (S30);
       analyzing (S31, S27, S32) on the basis of the
information in the record whether a message communication
20   is allowed; and
       preventing (S29) the transmission of a message if
said message is related to an unallowed address according
to the analyzing step, wherein
       each of said decision step (S30A) and said
25   preventing step (S29) is done in a switching center (11,
15) of said communication network, and said record (28)
is kept in said switching center (11, 15).

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein one of said
30   sender and said receiver is a message service center
(14).

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein said switching
center is a visited switching center (11), to which a
35   terminal of a subscriber being involved in said message

communication is related at a time when said message is
to be transmitted.

4. A method according to claim 1, wherein said switching
5   center is an interworking switching center (15).

5. A method according to claim 1, wherein said contents
of said record are subscriber specific.

10   6. A method according to claim 5, wherein said record is
common to a group of subscribers.

7. A network capable of restricting a message service,
comprising
15   at least one sender (12, 13, 14) and one recipient
(12, 13, 14), wherein each has an address (A12, A13,
A14);
        a plurality of switching centers, wherein a terminal
is always related to a visited switching center (11);
20   a record (28) in which information about unallowed
addresses is written;
        an analyzing means (27) for analyzing with the help
of said record (28) whether an address is unallowed;
        means (29), operable to prevent transmission of a
25   message if said message is related to an address which is
unallowed according to the analysis of the analyzing
means (27); and
        decision means (26) for deciding on a permission for
an address in a message communication,wherein
30   said record (28), said analyzing means (27), said
preventing means (29) and said decision means (26) are
located in each of said switching centers (11).

8. A network according to claim 7, wherein one of said sender and said recipient is a message service center (14).

5   9. A network according to claim 7, further comprising at least one interworking switching center (15), wherein said record (28), said analyzing means (27), said preventing means (29) and said decision means (26) are located in said interworking switching center (15).

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10. A network according to claim 7, wherein said network is adapted to perform a method according to claim 1.